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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/518,468	08/04/2005	Sergio Belli	05788.0334	8441
22852 7590 06/06/2007 FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			EXAMINER NGUYEN, CHAU N	
			ART UNIT 2831	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/06/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/518,468

Applicant(s)

BELLI ET AL.

Examiner

Chau N. Nguyen

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 45-88 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 45-88 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 45-51, 55, 57-62, 64-66, 73, 75, 84-86 and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Belli et al. (WO 98/52197).

Belli et al. (Figure 3) discloses a cable for use in a predetermined voltage class, comprising: a conductor; an insulating layer surrounding said conductor; and a protective element around said insulating layer, the protective element having a thickness and mechanical properties selected to provide a predetermined impact resistance capability, said protective element comprising at least one expanded polymeric layer (10), and said insulating layer having a thickness. Noted that the insulating layer of Belli et al. would provide a voltage gradient on the outer surface

of the cable insulating layer not smaller than 1.0 kV/mm and would be operated at a nominal voltage corresponding to the predetermined voltage class ranges among values between 2.5 and 18 kV/mm (re claim 57), and said protective element thickness would be sufficient to prevent a detectable insulating layer damage upon impact of at least 25 J energy since they comprise structure and material as claimed (re claims 45-51). Belli et al. also discloses the protective element being placed in a position radially external to the insulating layer (re claim 58), the degree of expansion of said expanded polymeric layer is between 0.35 and 0.7 (re claim 59), said degree of expansion is between 0.4 and 0.6 (re claim 60), said expanded polymeric layer has a thickness between 1 and 5 mm (re claim 61) the expandable polymeric material of said expanded polymeric layer is selected from polyolefin polymers or copolymers based on ethylene and/or propylene (re claim 62), said protective element further includes at least one non-expanded polymeric layer (6) coupled with said expanded polymeric layer (re claim 64), said at least one non-expanded polymeric layer has a thickness in the range of 0.2 to 1 mm (re claim 65), said at least one non- expanded polymeric layer is made of polyolefin material (re claim 66), the conductor being a metal rod (re claim 73), the predetermined voltage class belongs to a medium or high voltage range (re claim 75). Claims 84-86 and 88 are method counterparts of claims 45-51.

3. Claims 45-51, 54-56, 58, 61-67, 71-73, 75, 84-86 and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Belli et al. (WO 99/33070).

Belli et al. (Figure 1) discloses a cable for use in a predetermined voltage class, comprising: a conductor; an insulating layer surrounding said conductor; and a protective element around said insulating layer having a thickness and mechanical properties selected to provide a predetermined impact resistance capability, said protective element comprising at least one expanded polymeric layer (5), and said insulating layer having a thickness. Noted that the insulating layer of Belli et al. would provide a voltage gradient on the outer surface of the cable insulating layer not smaller than 1.0 kV/mm and said protective element thickness being sufficient to prevent a detectable insulating layer damage upon impact of at least 25 J energy since they comprise structure and material as claimed (re claims 45-51). Belli et al. also discloses that said predetermined voltage class is 30KV and said insulating layer thickness is not higher than 5.5 mm (re claim 54), said conductor is a solid rod (re claim 55), an electric shield surrounding said insulating layer, said electric shield comprising a metal sheet shaped in tubular form (re claim 56), said protective element is placed in a position radially external to said insulating layer (re claim 58), said expanded polymeric layer has a

thickness between 1 and 5 mm (re claim 61), the expandable polymeric material of said expanded polymeric layer is selected from polyolefin polymers or copolymers based on ethylene and/or propylene (re claim 62), said expanded polymeric material is ethylene copolymers with an ethylenically unsaturated ester in which the quantity of unsaturated ester is between 5% and 80% by weight (re claim 63), said protective element further includes at least one non-expanded polymeric layer coupled with said expanded polymeric layer (re claim 64), said at least one non-expanded polymeric layer has a thickness in the range of 0.2 to 1 mm (re claim 65), said at least one non- expanded polymeric layer is made of polyolefin material (re claim 66), said protective element comprises a first non-expanded polymeric layer in a position radially external to said expanded polymeric layer (re claim 67), said further expanded polymeric layer is semiconductive (re claim 71), said further expanded polymeric layer is water swellable (re claim 72), said conductor is a metal rod (re claim 73), said predetermined voltage class belongs to a medium or high voltage range (re claim 75). Claims 84-86 and 88 are method counterparts of claims 45-51.

4. Claims 45-62, 64-70, 74 and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Balconi et al. (2005/0046073).

The applied reference has a common inventor (Sergio Belli) with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Balconi et al. (Figure 1) discloses a cable for use in a predetermined voltage class, comprising: a conductor; an insulating layer surrounding said conductor; and a protective element around said insulating layer having a thickness and mechanical properties selected to provide a predetermined impact resistance capability, said protective element comprising at least one expanded polymeric layer (9), and said insulating layer having a thickness. Noted that the insulating layer of Belli et al. would provide a voltage gradient on the outer surface of the cable insulating layer not smaller than 1.0 kV/mm and said protective element thickness being sufficient to prevent a detectable insulating layer damage upon impact of at least 25 J energy since they comprise structure and material as claimed (re claims 45-51). Balconi et al. also discloses that said predetermined voltage class is 10KV and said insulating layer thickness is not higher than 2.5 mm (re

claim 52), said predetermined voltage class is 20KV and said insulating layer thickness is not higher than 4 mm (re claim 53), said predetermined voltage class is 30KV and said insulating layer thickness is not higher than 5.5 mm (re claim 54), said conductor is a solid rod (re claim 55), an electric shield surrounding said insulating layer, said electric shield comprising a metal sheet shaped in tubular form (re claim 56) said insulating layer thickness is selected so that the electrical stress within the insulating layer when the cable is operated at a nominal voltage corresponding to said predetermined voltage class ranges among values between 2.5 and 18 kV/mm (re claim 57), said protective element is placed in a position radially external to said insulating layer (re claim 58), the degree of expansion of said expanded polymeric layer is between 0.35 and 0.7 (re claim 59), said degree of expansion is between 0.4 and 0.6 (re claim 60), said expanded polymeric layer has a thickness between 1 and 5 mm (re claim 61), the expandable polymeric material of said expanded polymeric layer is selected from polyolefin polymers or copolymers based on ethylene and/or propylene (re claim 62), said protective element further includes at least one non-expanded polymeric layer coupled with said expanded polymeric layer (re claim 64), said at least one non- expanded polymeric layer has a thickness in the range of 0.2 to 1 mm (re claim 65), said at least one non- expanded polymeric layer is made of polyolefin material (re claim

66), said protective element comprises a first non-expanded polymeric layer in a position radially external to said expanded polymeric layer (re claim 67), said protective element comprises a second non-expanded polymeric layer in a position radially internal to said expanded polymeric layer (re claim 68), a further expanded polymeric layer in a position radially internal to said protective element (re claim 69), said further expanded polymeric layer is in a position radially external to said insulating layer (re claim 70), said insulating layer is made of a non-crosslinked base polymeric material (re claim 74), and said predetermined voltage class belongs to a medium or high voltage range (re claim 75).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 52, 53, and 76-84, 86 and 87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belli et al. (WO/52197).

Belli et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for the insulating layer having a thickness of not higher than 2.5 mm or not higher than 4 mm, the protective element thickness being smaller than 7.5mm for a conductor cross-sectional area greater than 50 mm^2 and a thickness of greater than 8.5 mm for a conductor cross-sectional area smaller than or equal to 50 mm^2 , nor the thickness of the protective element being in inverse relationship with the conductor cross-sectional area. However, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to choose suitable thickness for the insulating layer and the protective element as well as the cross-sectional area for the conductor of Belli et al. to meet the specific use of the resulting cable since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed March 30th 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the 35 USC 102 rejection, applicant argues that neither of the cited references disclose the insulating layer having a thickness being such as to provide a voltage gradient on the outer surface of the insulating layer not smaller than 1.0 kV/mm and the protective element thickness being sufficient to prevent a detectable insulating layer damage upon impact of at least 25 J energy. Applicant argues that neither of said references disclose the information necessary to determine whether any of the disclosed embodiments achieve such features of claim 45.

Examiner disagrees. Claim 45 broadly recites the insulating layer having a thickness being such as... and the protective element having a thickness being sufficient to... There is no specific limitation such as how thick are the layers or what materials are used for the layers to achieve the features recited in claim 45. The cited references are directed or related to cables with impact-resistant coating. The cited references also disclose the cable comprising structure and material as claimed in claim 45 including the insulating layer having a thickness and the

protective element having a thickness. Accordingly, such characteristics cited in claim 45 are inherent from the cables of the cited references. It has been held that where the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical in structure or composition, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, a prima facie case of either anticipation or obviousness has been established. *In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977).

Regarding the 35 USC 103 rejection, applicant argues that the examiner has pointed to nothing in the prior art suggesting that providing a thickness of a protective element based on the cross-sectional area of a conductor achieves a recognizable result. Examiner disagrees. The cited reference, namely the '197 reference, does disclose that the cross-sectional area of conductor and the thickness of the protective element are being selected so that the cable would meet its specific uses such as impact resistant. It has been held that the differences in thickness will not support the patentability of subject matter encompassed by the prior art unless there is evidence indicating such thicknesses are critical. Where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation. *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235.

Summary

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau N. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-1980. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext 31.